

117 Old Nod Road  
Clinton, CT 06413  
March 7, 2012

RE: Raised Bill #5389 – An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana

Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for Raised Bill 5389, An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana.

I am a 62-year-old man who was injured in 2009 in a work accident when I was run over by a vehicle. Since the accident, I have had 4 surgeries and 4 hospitalizations, and today I continue to suffer with chronic pain.

My doctor has tried to find the right combination of prescription painkillers to help me control my pain and while the medications do have satisfactory analgesic effects, they are not ideal for chronic pain. Chronic pain needs to be handled differently from short-term pain.

First, chronic pain cannot be predicted. I take my pain medications on a 6 hour schedule, but it may be that my pain is starting to peak at the time the medication is starting to wear off. But if I wait until the pain is nearing its peak to take my medication, it may take up to an hour to get relief. For a short-term condition such as a toothache, this may be acceptable, but for my pain, which my doctor has told me will be life-long, it is unacceptable.

Second, I worry about the short-term and long-term effects of ingesting several different medications, including opiates and narcotics, over the rest of my life.

If I were able to legally use marijuana for pain relief, I would be able to match my use to my pain, and get immediate relief when it is needed, instead of ingesting narcotics every 6 hours to "take the edge off". Between doses, when my pain is not as severe, I would be more alert and productive than I am with continual dosages of prescription drugs. With these medications, there is never a time when I am not "medicated".

I urge you to consider the many people who suffer daily with the numerous medical conditions for which research has shown marijuana to be beneficial, many of whom are desperate to improve the quality of their lives.

Respectfully,



George D. Burgess